Jailed Cuban Exile Leader Called Boaster of Expo Plot

By JEREMIAH O'LEARY
Latin America Writer of The Star

Persistent reports that Fidel Castro intends to visit the Cuban exhibit at Canada's Expo 67 on July 26 may have been one of the factors that impelled the U.S. Immigration and Naturalization Service to put anti-Castro exile activist Felipe Rivero Diaz behind bars.

Informed sources here said the 42-year-old head of the Asociacion Nacionalista Cubana, a small but violent exile organization had continued to boast publicly that his men planned to attack the Havana pavilion at Montreal with bazookas and plastic explosives.

The intelligence services of both the United States and Canada are apprehensive that the attack might be planned for July 26, Cuba Day at the world fair.

It is also possible that Rivero may have violated the INS order restricting them as refugees to New York and Dade County, Fla.

—AP

FELIPE RIVERO DIAZ

INS did not disclose why its agents took Rivero into custody at his Coral Gables, Fla., home Friday night. But some of the facts may emerge at an immigration hearing set for tomorrow in Miami to determine whether Rivero's status as a paroled refugee will remain suspended or be revoked.

The former member of the Brigada Asalto 2506 in the attack at the Bay of Pigs is in the Dade County jail. He is not expected to be sent back to Cuba, where certain death would await him, but probably will be kept out of circulation until after the Cuban celebration at Montreal.

Washington sources are fairly certain Cuban President Oswaldo Dorticos will attend the fair on July 26, anniversary of the foundation of Castro's revolutionary movement. They also have heard reports that Castro himself will attend.

The United States has the right to revoke the paroles of refugees at any time and even to deport them. It might not be possible to find another country willing to take Rivero. In that case, it is expected he would remain in custody until such time as the government decided he was no longer disposed to violate American laws.

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Cuban in Expo 67 Plot Held For Refugee-Status Hearing

By JEREMIAH O'LEARY
Star Staff Writer

The Immigration and Naturalization Service has revoked the refugee parole status of a Cuban exile leader whose organization has been planning for months to make a bazooka attack on the Cuban pavilion at Canada's Expo 67.

INS agents took Felipe Rivero Diaz, 42, into custody last night at his home in Coral Gables, Fla., and placed him in the Dade County Jail to await a hearing Monday before an immigration officer to determine whether he can remain in the United States as a refugee.

Rivero, a veteran of the Bay of Pigs invasion and recently employed in a Miami used car lot, is the acknowledged leader of an extremist anti-Castro organization called Asociacion Nacionalista Cubana.

—AP

FELIPE RIVERO DIAZ

Restricted in Florida

He and six of his followers were ordered to restrict themselves to the Dade County area three weeks ago by INS after evidence had mounted that the CNA was determined to attack the Cuban exhibit in Montreal.

Official sources said Rivero and his group are known to have fired a bazooka shell at the United Nations Building in New York in 1964.

They also tried to blow up the Tomb of Karl Marx in London in 1965, fired a bazooka shell at the Cuban Embassy in Ottawa in 1966 and last year set off a plastic bomb beside an auction house in Montreal where property taken from exiles leaving Havana was allegedly being sold.

Won't Be Sent to Cuba

Informed sources said there is no chance that Rivero will be returned to Cuba which would be tantamount to signing his death warrant. If the suspension of his parole status as a refugee is upheld, Rivero will either be deported to any country that will accept him or remain in custody.

Officials would not disclose why INS arrested Rivero last night except to say it was on the basis of information now before INS.

However, informed sources said the Nacionalista leader had never abandoned his plan to attack the Expo 67 pavilion and continued boasting about the terrorist plans of his small organization.

Cuban Exiles Say Castro Terrorists Bombed Office

By THEODORE A. EDIGER

MIAMI, Fla. (AP)—A Castro bomb squad blew up an office in "Little Havana" Tuesday, exiles charged, as thousands of Cuban refugees walked off their jobs to protest the jailing of militant anti-Castro leader Feline Rivero.

In addition, several hundred Cubans, mostly women dressed in black and carrying "Free Rivero" signs, staged a peaceful march in downtown Miami.

The "terrorist" blast at the headquarters of a Cuban unit group didn't hurt anyone—it went off before daylight—but the one-day strike affected a reported 1,000 businesses. It also cut into school attendance.

Strike leaders claimed 40,000 of the city's 100,000 exiles took park in the sympathy movement. Idle Cubans—in a holiday spirit—jammed the exile colony in the heart of Miami during the hot day.

In the afternoon, the marchers strolled quietly to the John F. Kennedy Memorial Torch of Friendship.

Hundreds of others, preferring not to walk the three miles under the hot sun, rode along side the marchers in cars adorned with Cuban flags.

A woman carrying a cross led the parade. Among placards carried by marchers was: "While Americans Die in Vietnam, America Protects Fidel." Another sign said, "Cubans Have a Right to Fight."

The parade, at the start of Miami's rush hour, tied up traffic for blocks. At one point, 12 buses were lined up waiting for clearance.

The dashing Rivero, 43, was arrested May 12 after he threatened to blow up the Cuban pavilion at Canada's Expo 67. He has claimed to have had a hand in several anti-Castro expeditions and faces a deportation hearing next Monday.

A State Department spokesman said the strike would have no effect on the U.S. case against Rivero, now hospitalized on the eighth day of a hunger strike.

"The situation will follow due process of law and today's events will not affect anything," the spokesman said. "His case will come up as scheduled."

Police said FBI agents searched the bombed out office of the Cuban Exile Representative—RECE—and studied the explosive, six sticks of dynamite and a timing device. Witnesses told of seeing four men, believed Cuban, fleeing the building shortly before the blast.

RECE leaders claimed the bombing was the work of "Castroist terrorism" in an effort to split anti-Castro elements in the exile colony.